

Ecclesiastes

Study #1



Meaninglessness

...

A chasing after
the Wind

Discuss.

What are the important meaningful things in life for you?
(e.g. work, family , health etc) Why are they important?
What would change these things from being meaningful to being meaningless to you?

Read Chapter 1: 1 – 11

What is the main theme of the book?
V2.

What does the writer mean by the phrase “Meaningless” ?¹

What examples does the writer use to make his point?

a. v4

b. v5

c. v6

d. v7

e. v8

f. v9



How do these examples show that everything is meaningless?

Do you agree or disagree with the writer’s explanations ? Why?

¹ The Hebrew phrase is “Vainities of Vainities”, NIV translates it as “Meaningless”

Read Chapter 2 : 1-11

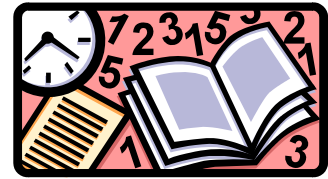
What is the writer trying to evaluate ? v1-3

What has the writer achieved in life ?

V4 – 6

V7

V8



V9

What conclusion does the writer make about his life? V10-11

Think about it.

Why did the writer make this negative conclusion? (read more of his conclusions in Chap 2:17-21)

(Hint : What is the writer looking for to give meaning to his life?)

Do you agree with the writer's conclusion about life? Give your reasons.

Optional passage. (only if your group has plenty of time left)

Read Chapter 3 : 1-15

What is the main point of the poem in v 1 – 8 ? What does it say about time?

How is God different from humanity ? How does time effect us differently?

V9-14

There are many things beyond our control, what does time teach us about God and life? V15

Conclusion.

The passage we looked at is part of the first observation that the writer makes about life. He looks at his life and his own achievements and concludes that it is all meaningless. We don't expect such sad and negative conclusions from the Bible but yet it is here. It is surprising.

We spend our entire life planning and striving for security, comfort and success.

In the end what do we achieve from all that striving?

Read Luke 12:13-21. According to Jesus what was the mistake of the rich fool?

Think about this :

What difference does God make in our lives ?

How is it different from living without God in our lives?

Do we need God to give us meaning in life ?